

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-40 (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding ~~as recited in claim 6, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes~~ a metallopeptidase having at least about 77% identity with the complete amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

42. (previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising an isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 41.

43. (previously presented) A recombinant host cell capable of expressing a metallopeptidase, polypeptide or part thereof comprising the vector of claim 42.

44-46 (cancelled).

47. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide ~~as recited in claim 6, wherein the nucleotide has the sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO: 12.

48. (previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising an isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 47.

49. (previously presented) A recombinant host cell capable of expressing a metallopeptidase, polypeptide or part thereof comprising the vector of claim 48.

50-61 (cancelled)